

WO-350
Merrill Farm
Pocomoke City (site)
Private

1847

One of several farms southwest of Pocomoke City long held by the Merrill family, a small grouping of mid nineteenth century farm buildings remains near the site of the 1847 farmhouse that stood on the property at the time the site was surveyed in the winter of 1990. The two-story seven-bay frame dwelling followed the regional stepped or telescope form with a side hall/parlor main block, a single-story hyphen. The three-part house, dating to 1847, was trimmed with modest Federal/Greek Revival woodwork including six-panel doors, plain corner block surrounds, and a rectangular baluster stair. The middle room or hyphen contained built-in cupboards, indicating it was used for dining.

Due to the prevailing popularity of picturesque cross-gabled frame houses during the late nineteenth century, the hyphen was raised to a two-story height even with the main block and a gable was centered on the reworked five-bay facade. A round arched window pierced the gable front. Shortly after the turn of the twentieth century, in 1902, a two-story kitchen wing was attached to the rear.

The house was joined on the site by a large gable-front barn, a gable-front granary, a log corn crib, a frame dairy, a log smokehouse, and a log slave quarter, one of the few to survive in Worcester County. The slave house, which still survives on the farm, is a horizontal log structure with full-dovetailed corner notches. Stout posts, pinned in place in the four inside corners, helped add stability to the one-room plan house.

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The farm, located on the north side of Cedar Hall Road, was part of the large landholdings of Levi Merrill (1802-1871), who is listed in the 1850 U. S. Census with his wife Eliza and six children. Ten years later his assets, estimated for the 1860 census, were listed at \$30,000, making him one of the most prominent farmers in southwestern Worcester County. After his death in 1871 the farms were divided between his sons, and Major R. Merrill (1824-1887) resided on this farm, then comprising around 275 acres.

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

Survey No. W0-350

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic MAJOR R. MERRILL FARM

and/or common MERRILL FARM

2. Location

street & number North side of Cedar Hall Road not for publication

city, town Pocomoke City X vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture	<u> </u> museum
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	<u>X</u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial	<u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational	<u> </u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment	<u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government	<u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial	<u> </u> transportation
	<u> </u> not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military	<u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Major Burris Merrill

street & number telephone no.:

city, town Pocomoke City state and zip code MD 21853

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber 142

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio 96

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county loc

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. W0-350

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Merrill farm is located on the north side of Cedar Hall Road southwest of Pocomoke City, Worcester County, Maryland. The farm complex is located at the end of a long lane that intersects Cedar Hall Road approximately one mile south of the corner of Dun Swamp Road.

The farm complex contains a dated 1847 dwelling, a large gable-front hay barn, a granary, a corncrib, a dairy, a smokehouse, and a former slave quarter. The house has reached a serious state of deterioration, as have the barn and granary. The smokehouse and granary, two of the horizontal log structures, are in relatively good condition.

Dated by an etched brick to 1847, the farmhouse is a stepped house built in three principal stages. The initial dwelling involved three sections in descending height from the side hall/parlor main block. The center section, a slightly shorter two-story, two-bay structure joined another two-story, two-bay section that was shorter yet. Around 1870, the roof of the center section was raised to the same level as the main block, and a cross gable was centered on the new roof slope. This addition achieved the general appearance of a two-and-a-half story five-bay dwelling. In 1902 a two-story service wing was attached to the back of the easternmost section to form an ell.

The main house is a two-and-a-half story, five-bay frame structure supported by a low brick foundation. Sheathed in asbestos shingles over weatherboards, the house is covered by a medium pitched wood shingle roof. The uneven fenestration points to the different building periods. Etched in the south face of the western chimney is the date "1847."

The south (main) facade is marked by a slightly asymmetrical five bay elevation with a center entrance and flanking window openings. The centrally positioned six-panel door is topped by a four-light transom, and the entire entrance is framed by a molded surround. A large part of the six-over-six window sash have been broken out. One turned half post and part of the roof remains of a single story porch that stretched across the full front of the house. The second floor was lighted by five six-over-six sash windows. Piercing the cross gable is an arched two-over-two sash window.

The east gable end of the main block is largely covered by the two-story, two-bay by one room wing. The south side is marked by a single six-panel door as well as an adjacent six-over-six sash window. The second floor is lighted by two evenly spaced six-over-six sash windows. A front porch once extended to shelter the entrance into this section as well.

(continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. WO-350

Period	Area of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archaeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archaeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1847 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. WO-350

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property _____
Acreage of historical setting _____
Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale: _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul Touart, Architectural Historian	
organization	Worcester County	date 2/21/90
street & number	Worcester County Courthouse	telephone 301-632-1194
city or town	Snow Hill	state MD 21863

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

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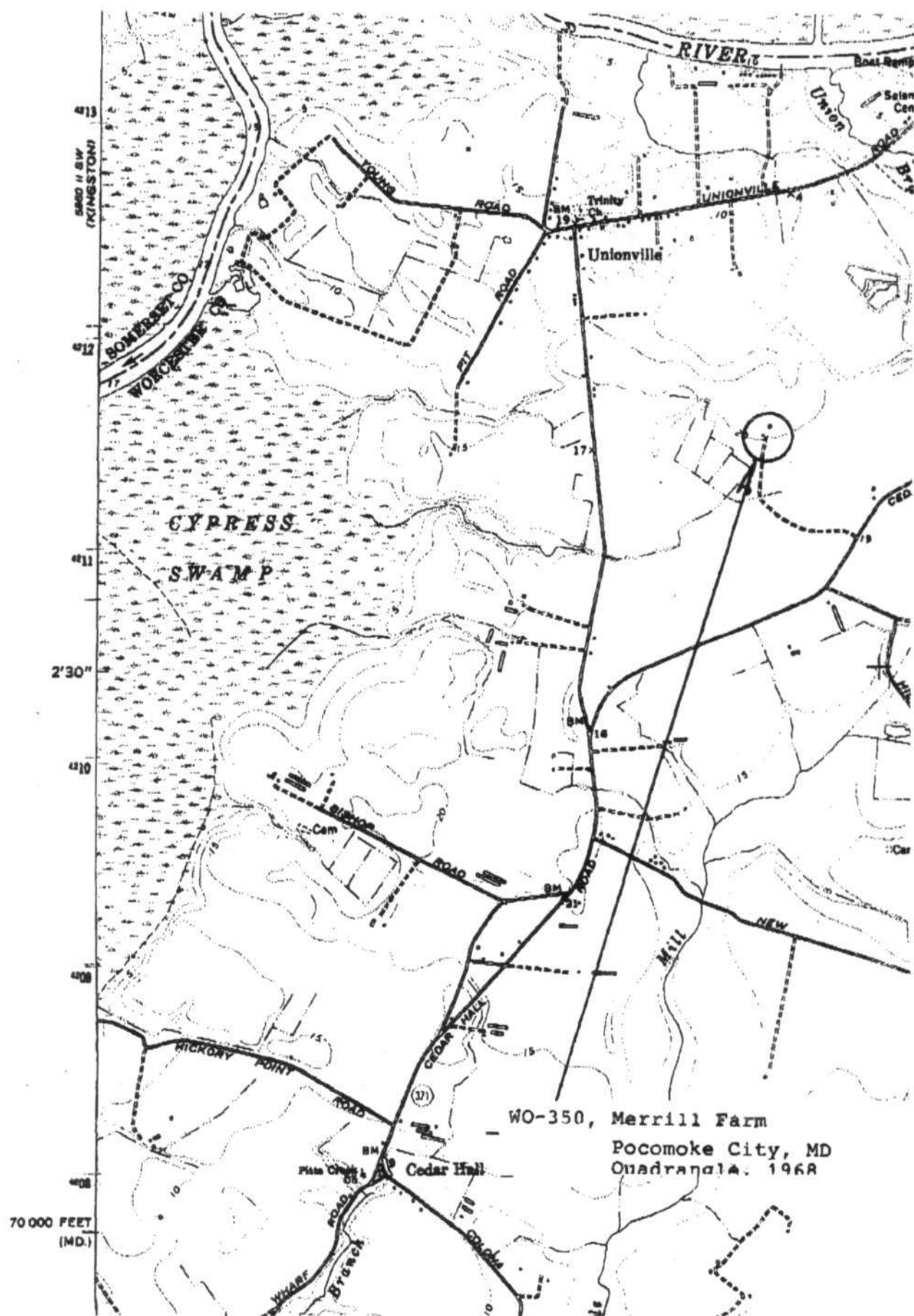
Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Department of Planning
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

1877 Lane, Griffiths & Stevenson
No-350, Morrill Farm

TOWN

t. N° 1
STER CO.







WO-350, Merrill farm, south elevation